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Section II. REMARKS

The pending claims in the application are 32-36, 38-40, 42, 44, 46-48 and 50.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the May 2, 2005 Office Action, claims 33-35, 38, 41-43 and 46-48 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants acknowledge such indication of contingent allowability of claims 33-35, 38, 41-43 and 46-48 and respectfully request reconsideration of all pending claims 32-36, 38-40, 42, 44, 46-48 and 50.

Request for Rejoinder Reminder

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of method claims 1-11, 13, 15, 17-19 and 21-31, upon allowance of the product claims 32-36, 38-40, 42, 44, 46-48 and 50.¹ Towards that end, withdrawn method claims 1, 11, 13, 15, 19 and 22 have been amended in a manner consistent with the pending product claims.

Claim Objections

In the May 2, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 40 because the recitation "further comprising a silicon source reagent" reinstates a limitation recited in claim 39 (from which claim 40 depends).

Claim 39 has been amended herein to remove Si from the list of possible M species of formula (I), thereby obviating this objection.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

¹ Rejoinder was previously requested in the response to the June 15, 2004 Office Action, filed July 29, 2004.

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Rejections of Claims and Traversal Thereof

In the May 2, 2005 Office Action,

claims 32, 36, 37, 39, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Muroyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,578,530).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference.

Muroyama relates to a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device having an SiN layer. The precursor species disclosed in Muroyama include: $[R_2N]_xSiF_{4-x}$, where R is hydrogen or an alkyl and x is 1, 2 or 3; and $[(R)_2N]_xSi_2F_{6-x}$, where R is hydrogen or an alkyl and x is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

Applicants have amended claims 32, 36, 39 and 44 herein to remove Si from the list of possible M species of formula (I), thereby obviating this rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 32, 36, 37, 39, 44 and 45 under §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Fees Payable

One (1) dependent claim has been added, and eight (8) dependent claims have been cancelled herein. As such, no added claims fee is due at this time.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency in applicable fees for this response to Deposit Account No. 08-3284 of Intellectual Property/Technology Law.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have satisfied the requirements for patentability. All pending claims are free of the art and fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103. It therefore is requested that Examiner Everhart reconsider the patentability of the pending claims in light of the distinguishing remarks herein, and withdraw all rejections, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance. Notice of the

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same is earnestly solicited. In the event that any issues remain, Examiner Everhart is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919) 419-9350 to resolve same.

Respectfully submitted,



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